

McConnell	Rounds	Thune
Moran	Rubio	Tillis
Murkowski	Schumer	Toomey
Paul	Scott (FL)	Tuberville
Portman	Scott (SC)	Wicker
Risch	Shelby	Young
Romney	Sullivan	

NOT VOTING—2

Feinstein Sasse

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 50.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. SCHUMER. I enter a motion to reconsider the failed cloture vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, I want to make sure everyone understands exactly what has happened here on the Senate floor. The Republican Party has now become the party of default, the party that says America doesn't pay its debts.

Our country is staring down the barrel of two totally Republican-manufactured disasters—a government shutdown and a first-ever default on the national debt. The impacts of both would gravely harm every single American in this country. Republicans would let the country default for the first time in history.

A few moments ago, the Senate had an opportunity to begin solving these problems right away. Democrats did their part and voted yes, but Senate Republicans meanwhile voted to drive our country straight toward a government shutdown and the first default in our country's history.

Let me be clear. What the Republicans in the Senate did tonight is not normal. This isn't your typical Washington practice, and it shouldn't be treated as such. It has far more severe consequences than the typical political cat fight. Republicans know the consequences of their obstruction. They know a default would likely create a recession. They know that middle-class families will suffer immensely. They have heard the same warnings that we have. And by many calculations, the Republican default will raise the deficit by more than the American Rescue Plan, and yet Republicans still obstructed tonight.

It is one of the most reckless, one of the most irresponsible votes I have seen take place in the Senate, and it should send a signal to every family, small business, market watcher about who in this Chamber is in favor of endangering the economic stability of our country and who isn't.

Let me repeat: The Republican Party has solidified itself as the party of default, and it will be the American people who pay the price. Social Security checks, Medicare benefits, veterans benefits, small business—all this and more are now on the chopping block because Senate Republicans are play-

ing games with the full faith and credit of the United States.

Now, despite Republican intransigence, this matter cannot be set aside for even a moment. Before the vote, I changed my vote from yes to no in order to reserve the option on additional action on the House-passed legislation.

Keeping the government open and preventing a default is vital to our country's future, and we will be taking further action to prevent this from happening this week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 264.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert T. Anderson, of Washington, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 264, Robert T. Anderson, of Washington, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

Charles E. Schumer, Tammy Duckworth, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Amy Klobuchar, Gary C. Peters, Mark R. Warner, Tammy Baldwin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie Hirono, Debbie Stabenow, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Tina Smith.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 159.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jonathan Eugene Meyer, of Ohio, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 159, Jonathan Eugene Meyer, of Ohio, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security.

Charles E. Schumer, Tammy Duckworth, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Amy Klobuchar, Gary C. Peters, Mark R. Warner, Tammy Baldwin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie K. Hirono, Debbie Stabenow, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Tina Smith.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, September 27, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO ATOMIC VETERANS

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I draw attention to and recognize the immense service and commitment to our country of our Nation's Atomic Veterans. I also extend special recognition and gratitude to Idahoan and Atomic Veteran Noelan "Mac" McCormack for his service to our country and his efforts to ensure his fellow veterans receive appreciation and recognition for their service and sacrifices.

Mac McCormack of Coeur d'Alene, ID, served in the U.S. Marine Corps Test Unit #1, a unit active from 1954–1957 involved in specialized tactics, including warfare as it related to nuclear weapons. An Atomic Veteran is a veteran who, as part of his or her military service, participated in nuclear testing between 1945 and 1962, served in the U.S. military forces in or around Hiroshima and Nagasaki through mid-1946, or was held a prisoner of war in or near Hiroshima or Nagasaki.

Earlier this year, when designating July 16, 2021, as National Atomic Veterans Day, President Biden noted the considerable challenges Atomic Veterans have faced, "Atomic Veterans

served our Nation with distinction, but their service came at a great cost. Many developed health conditions due to radiation exposure, yet because they were not able to discuss the nature of their service, they were unable to seek medical care or disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their illnesses." Decades after their service, in 1996, Congress repealed the Nuclear Radiation and Secrecy Agreement Act, which enabled Atomic Veterans to seek services and share their experiences. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides information to connect Atomic Veterans with medical services and compensation. However, the National Association of Atomic Veterans, Inc., notes, "Currently, there are approximately 195,000 Atomic Veterans across America who either do not know their oath-of-secrecy has been rescinded, and who are not aware of the potential monetary benefits due them for (service connected) radiation induced illnesses."

While the best healthcare and other services in the world can never reverse what many Atomic Veterans and their families have endured, we owe it to America's servicemembers who have answered the call to duty to ensure access to high-quality services and resources to support their commitment to our country. As part of this effort, I cosponsored S.565, the Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act, which would reclassify veterans who participated in the cleanup of the Enewetak Atoll as radiation-exposed veterans, making them eligible for the same benefits afforded to those covered by Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, RECA. Work also continues on bipartisan legislation to extend and expand RECA eligibility to those in Idaho and other States who have suffered from cancers related to fallout from nuclear weapons testing during the Cold War period of the 1950s and 1960s. As work continues on these and other efforts to support veterans, I join in honoring Atomic Veterans whose service has been a central part of our national defense. I hope recognition can also draw attention to available services and resources for Atomic Veterans.

In 1983, then-President Ronald Reagan urged fellow citizens to join him in appreciation of the service of Atomic Veterans he characterized as, "those patriotic Americans who through their participation in these tests helped lead the United States to the forefront of technology in defense of our great Nation and the freedoms we as Americans hold so dear."

Thank you, Mac McCormack, and your fellow Atomic Veterans, for your immeasurable and in many ways unrepayable service. I hope you know how deeply grateful we as a nation are for your patriotism.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER GEORGE POULOS

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the Very Reverend Father George Poulos, a deeply admired community leader, who turns 100 on September 30.

Born in Massachusetts to Greek immigrants in 1921, Father George joined the priesthood in 1943. He began his studies in Connecticut at the Holy Cross Seminary in Pomfret. Upon graduating in 1948 from the Holy Cross Seminary in Brookline, MA, Father George served as a pastor of the Holy Trinity Church in Norwich, CT. Then, in 1956, he was assigned to the Church of the Archangels in Stamford, CT. In 2009, after over six decades of remarkable service, Father George retired. He still plays an active role at the Church of the Archangels, serving as pastor emeritus.

I have been privileged to know Father George as a leader of courage and conviction, whose great work has touched countless lives. His vision and dedication enabled the Church of the Archangels to build an amazing, 11th Century Byzantine-style Greek Orthodox Church, which was consecrated in 1959. Later, in 1976, the church campus opened the Greek Cultural Center, which offered athletic amenities for church youth and banquet facilities for the entire community. In 1995, this center became the Stamford Athletic Club, providing invaluable services to the public.

Father George oversaw the creation of Ionian Village, a summer camp youth program in Greece. Since 1970, it has hosted thousands of Greek-American campers, giving them the opportunity to further explore their cultural history, religious roots, and language. Father George also established "Byzantine Fellowship" in America, and in his 30-year tenure as executive director, helped sponsor Greek cultural events in the United States and pilgrimages.

Father George's tireless dedication to helping others has earned him enormous respect and affection, as well as official recognition. He was appointed as vicar general of the churches in Connecticut by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, and in 2017, he received an honorary doctorate of divinity from Holy Cross Seminary. Father George is a prolific author and is actively involved in community service, as chaplain of the Stamford Fire Department, vice president of the local Council of Churches and Synagogues, and a major in the U.S. Air Force Civil Patrol.

I am honored to know Father George and his family for many years—indeed, decades. I can attest firsthand to his wonderful generosity and loyalty as a friend and his love for humanity, as well as the warm and welcoming spirit of his congregants. I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Very Reverend Father George Poulos, his wife, Christine, their five sons, and their six grandchildren on this milestone of Father George's 100th birthday.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE WALT WHITMAN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1970

• Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, on Saturday, October 9, 2021, nearly 200 members of the class of 1970 of Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, MD, will hold their 50th class reunion, an event delayed a year by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is my pleasure to congratulate them on this special occasion.

This distinguished class of 1970 from Walt Whitman has an exemplary history of contributions to society and to advancing social justice. As children, a number of class members from the Bannockburn neighborhood in Bethesda joined a contingent from Howard University for the first multiracial civil rights protest in America, picketing segregated Glen Echo Amusement Park daily for 22 weeks in 1960 after Blacks were arrested for riding its carousel. As the result of these and other efforts, the policy was changed, and the park reopened to all the next year. And this year, those members of the class of 1970 will return to Glen Echo during their 50th reunion to ride that same carousel on its 100th anniversary.

The class of 1970 came of age at an important time in our Nation's history, a period of great change and dramatic events. When they were 8 years old in 1961, they saw President John F. Kennedy call for all citizens to commit to work for the common good. They saw the beginning of space exploration, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the arrival of the Beatles, the passage by the U.S. Congress of landmark bills on voting rights and fair housing, the Vietnam war, and the tragedies of the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Senator Robert Kennedy.

This social awareness led to lifelong commitment and activism for so many in this remarkable class. In protest of the Vietnam war, many participated in the National Moratorium Against the War. In the dramatic March Against Death, dozens of members of the class carried the names of fallen soldiers whose families could not travel here to join the protest. As the first class of students subject to a draft lottery conducted by the Selective Service System, many classmates participated in efforts to abolish military conscription in the U.S. and in support of lowering the voting age from 21 to 18.

In 1970, when members of this class were in their senior year, WWHS was named the No. 1 public high school in the Nation by "U.S. News & World Report," which also recently named Whitman the best high school in Maryland. Whitman's first principal, Dr. Daryl Shaw, called the class of 1970 "the most challenging" he ever had, in light of their frequent questioning of authority and vigorous advocacy for social change. Profound events that changed